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Per-pupil funding increased in school aid budget

LANSING – School districts will receive \$210 more per-pupil under the school aid budget that unanimously passed the Senate today, said Sen. Ron Jelinek, R-Three Oaks.

Senate Republicans upheld their pledge to increase educational opportunities by increasing the overall school aid budget without raising fees or taxes.

“Despite Michigan’s sluggish economy, we maintained our commitment to education by increasing funding for school aid,” Jelinek said. “Our children are the key to our future and it is imperative we provide them with all the resources and tools they need to be successful. I’m glad to let them know we are dedicated to ensuring their success through increased funding.”

Other key items in the school aid budget include:

- Increased funding for special education programs;
- Increased funding for pre-school and early childhood programs; and
- Increased funding for at-risk programs.

The following new programs also will be funded:

- Children of incarcerated parents – a pilot program to help provide video conferencing as well as academic and social support.
- Book-a-month award – will provide preschool children with a book each month from birth to age 5.
- Early Intervening - designed to instruct teachers to monitor kids in grades K-3 to identify extra support needed to reduce possible future special education placement.

The school aid budget now goes to the governor.

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